

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Pending Claims

Claims 1-5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer for being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 8 and 9 have been added. Accordingly, claims 6-9 are pending.

Claim 6 has been amended to delete the alternative expression of a "mixed oxide or complex oxide" with the phrase "composite oxide", which is an equivalent and more commonly used phrase. Claims 8 and 9 are supported by original claim 4 and further find support in the specification at page 4, lines 4-6 and 18-22. New claims 8 and 9 are directed to the elected invention and therefore should be examined with claims 6 and 7.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Claims 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a, e) as being anticipated by Shamouilian et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,468,490. Further, claims 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0885648 (EP '648) in view of Shamouilian et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,468,490. Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to an apparatus for treating a perfluorocompound in which a gas flow of a perfluorocompound diluted with nitrogen or air and having added steam is brought into contact with a catalyst in a reactor. The catalyst, which is heated, comprises Ni, Al and W as catalytically active ingredients. In particular, according to the present invention, the catalyst comprises a composite oxide of Ni and AL and a composite oxide of Ni and W

which has been packed in the reactor.

The Examiner relies upon Shamouilian for disclosing a catalyst comprising a composite oxide of Ni and Al and a composite oxide of Ni and W. However, Shamouilian merely discloses a catalyst and a catalytic reactor 250 having catalytic surfaces that are impregnated with catalytic metals such as Ni or W. See column 6, lines 35-44 of the reference, for example. There is no disclosure in the reference of providing a composite oxide of Ni and AL or a composite oxide of Ni and W, as required by claim 6. Accordingly, claims 6 and 7 are not anticipated by Shamouilian, and therefore the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a, e) should be withdrawn.

In the rejection of claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the Examiner relies upon EP '648 for disclosing an apparatus for treating a perfluorocompound by adding air and steam, as shown in Figure 1. The reference discloses that a catalyst which contains at least one element of Ni and Al among others. However, as the Examiner notes in the Office Action, the reference does not disclose a composite oxide of Ni and W. As a result, Shamouilian is relied upon for disclosing a composite oxide of Ni and W. As aforementioned by Applicants, Shamouilian does not disclose the composite oxide of Ni and W as required by claim 6. Therefore, the combination of EP '648 and Shamouilian does not render the invention of claim 6 unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 6 and 7 should be withdrawn.

Claims 8 and 9 are patentable at least for depending from a patentable base claim. Accordingly, claims 8 and 9 should be found to be allowable over EP '648 and Shamouilian and the remainder of the art of record for the foregoing reasons.

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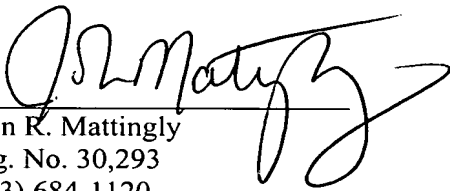
Applicants have studied the remainder of the art of record and note that none of the references overcomes the above-noted deficiencies in EP '648 and Shamouilian that are relied upon in the rejection of the claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

By 
John R. Mattingly
Reg. No. 30,293
(703) 684-1120

JRM/so
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